



Surface Sand Filters and Infiltration Trenches

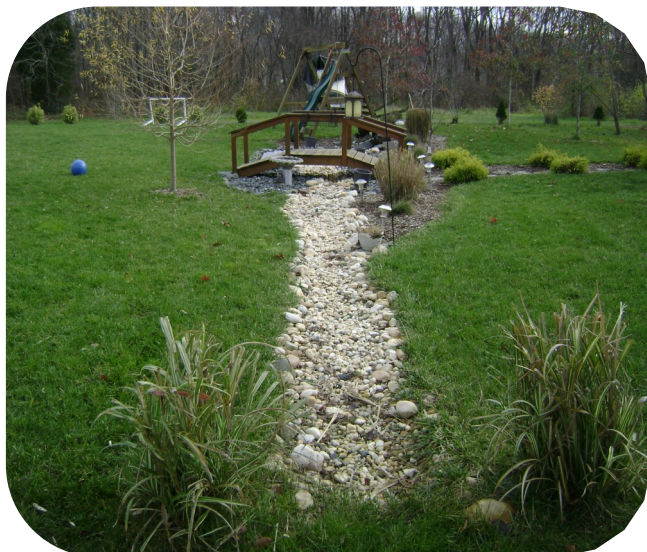
What is a sand filter?

A sand filter is a type of stormwater management facility designed to filter rainwater. It is typically a depression in the ground filled with sand that helps to manage polluted or excess rainwater. Sand filters in Harford County are generally stabilized with mulch or grass.



What is an infiltration trench?

An infiltration trench is a type of stormwater management facility designed to filter rainwater. Infiltration trenches are excavated channels filled with gravel that help to manage polluted or excess rainwater on your property. They can be designed to be located on the ground surface or buried.



Basic Maintenance ...

- ✓ Mow grass around the sand filter or infiltration trench ensuring no grass clippings enter into the sand filter or infiltration trench.
- ✓ If the approved plan does not provide for trees and woody vegetation, remove growth within the facility.
- ✓ Remove all trash in and around the facilities.
- ✓ Inspect for animal burrows and repair.

Seasonal Maintenance ...

- ✓ Rake the sand in the sand filter if not stabilized with grass or mulch.
- ✓ Seed and cover adjacent bare areas to prevent erosion.

As a reminder ...

- ✗ Do not allow children to play in or around the area.
- ✗ Do not place snow over the sand filter or infiltration trench.

What is it important to keep the facility maintained?

An unmaintained sand filter may:

- Stop filtering the rainwater and allow trash and pollutants to enter our local streams.
- Be difficult or expensive to restore if left unmaintained.
- Allow water to pool on the surface long enough to allow insects to breed (longer than 3 days).
- Over time, allow unwanted vegetation to grow over and reducing its effectiveness.

Performing preventative maintenance regularly will prevent long term damage and reduce costs. It is recommended to weed, remove trash and debris, and mow on a regular basis.

Maintaining your practice will help the environment and protect your local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

SURFACE SAND FILTERS AND INFILTRATION TRENCHES

Can I remove the surface sand filter or infiltration trench?

No, you cannot remove these facilities if they have been required by the County. Harford County maintains a database for all permitted structures including sand filters and infiltration trenches. Harford County is required to conduct an inspection every 3 years. If maintenance issues are found in need of repair, an inspection report will detail those items to be addressed within 30 days from the date of the notice.

Who is responsible for the maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your sand filter or infiltration trench.



Infiltration Trench with Grass Swales

Recommended Schedule For Typical Maintenance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove trash and debris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mowing				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Vegetation clearing	As Needed											

Troubleshooting

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Standing water in the sand filter	If standing water occurs for over 48 hours, the facility could be clogged or the underdrain may be blocked.	The facility may need to have the stabilization removed, sand raked or replaced, or the pipe may need to be cleaned.
Erosion or bare soil	The runoff is moving too fast and/or the vegetation has died.	Stabilize the soil by planting new vegetation.

Harford County can answer your questions and provide additional guidance on how to maintain your sand filter or infiltration trench.

Email: cjoyce@harfordcountymd.gov * Telephone: 410.638.3563
Website: www.harfordcountymd.gov/dpw/engineering/WaterResources/

